



## Weddings

The outstanding scenic beauty of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore provides a beautiful natural setting for weddings. The sweeping vistas and Lake Michigan beaches provide wonderful backdrops for small, intimate weddings. Accommodating weddings that are compatible with the Lakeshore’s enabling legislation requires careful planning to protect park resources and limit intrusions on recreational visitors.

### Application Procedures

Weddings may be scheduled up to one year in advance and not less than 21 days prior to your ceremony. Applicants must complete the Application for Special Use Permit Form. Include your telephone number, address, e-mail address, number of people, date, time, and exact location from the wedding location list below.

All application and permit fees are nonrefundable and are required to recover the costs to administer permits. The nonrefundable application and permit fees paid by check or money order will be made payable to: “National Park Service”.

Applications and fees should be mailed to:

**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**  
**Attention: Special Park Uses/Weddings**  
**9922 Front Street**  
**Empire, MI 49630**

Telephone inquiries: (231) 326-5134

E-Mail: [SLBE\\_Interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:SLBE_Interpretation@nps.gov)

### Fees

A nonrefundable \$50.00 application fee must be included with your application. After favorable review of your application, a Special Use Permit will be prepared and mailed to you for signature. At that time, a nonrefundable permit fee of \$100.00 must be remitted with your signed permit. An additional charge of \$50.00 per hour will be incurred for a National Park Service event monitor for those outdoor activities of 50 people or more.

Entrance fees into the park are not waived for either wedding participants or guests since recreational benefit is derived. Applicants can contact the Visitor Center to purchase Park Passes in advance.

### Permit Conditions

Please note that the wedding permit does not allow the ceremony to restrict other park visitors from the chosen location; nor does it guarantee availability of a specific site.

The approved permit must be in the applicant’s possession at the time of the wedding.

The release of any living thing is prohibited.

Birdseed or rice may not be thrown within the park as this provides an unnatural food source for wildlife.

The use of balloons, helium, or other types of decorations will not be authorized so as to preserve the natural scene.

Directional or event signs may not be used within the park.

Picnic areas may not be reserved and are available only on a first-come basis.

The permittee is responsible for the cleanup of all trash from the site. For activities of 25 people or more, all trash generated by the event is to be removed from the park by the permittee.

The permittee and guests must comply with all applicable federal, state, and county regulations.

Tents, tables or other furniture are not allowed at the site of the wedding unless a picnic area is used. Archways or other artificial structures are not authorized so as to preserve the natural scene. A small number of chairs may be permissible for elderly or disabled guests.

Pets must be leashed at all times.

Parking is limited in most locations. The use of car pools or shuttles is recommended and may be required as a condition of the permit.

Amplified music or public address systems are not allowed.

**No formal wedding receptions will be permitted.**

The time allowed for outdoor events is three hours.

Wedding Permits will not be issued for heavy use periods – Memorial Day weekend, July Fourth weekend, and Labor Day weekend.

**A visit to the park is highly recommended prior to finalizing your plans in order to decide on a site for your wedding. Following is a list of available sites and group size limitations.**

Locations

The list below identifies the areas in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore where weddings may be held. If the proposed areas and parameters conform to this list, standard fees will apply.

However, if an area not listed here is proposed and/or the proposed group size exceeds the maximum group size listed here, additional fees of \$50.00 per employee hour to manage and monitor the permit will be required.

Location	Parking Capacity	Restrooms	Beach Access	Max. Group Size	Availability Dates
Stocking Scenic Drive Overlook #3	Limited paved parking lot 8 vehicles	Yes	No	25	May and June, after Labor Day to Nov. 8
Stocking Scenic Drive Overlook #9 and #10	Limited paved parking lot 30 vehicles	Yes	No	25	May and June, after Labor Day to Nov. 8
Stocking Scenic Drive Overlook #11 (North Bar Lake Overlook)	Limited paved parking lot 15 vehicles	Yes	No	25	May through October
Glen Haven Beach	Limited parking	Yes	Yes	25	Sept. through June
Sleeping Bear Inn Lawn	Limited parking	Yes	Yes	50	Sept. through June
Maritime Museum Beach	Limited parking	Yes	Yes	50	When Museum Closed
Glen Lake Picnic Area	20 vehicles	Yes	Yes	50	All year
Thoreson Road (Sunset Shores Road)	Limited parking along county road	No	Yes	25	All year
Good Harbor Bay Picnic Area	Limited parking along county road	Yes	Yes	50	All year
Good Harbor Bay Beach - 651	Limited parking along county road	Yes	Yes	50	All year
Good Harbor Bay Beach – 669	Limited parking along county road	Yes	Yes	50	All year
Peterson Road	Limited parking along county road	Yes	Yes	50	All year
Esch Road	Limited parking along county road	Yes	Yes	50	All year
Tiesma Road	10 vehicle maximum	No	Yes	40	All year
Historic Farms	Limited parking	No	No	50	All year
South Manitou Island Village Beach	None – Ferry access only	Yes	Yes	25	May through October 10
North Manitou Island Village Beach	None – Ferry access only	Yes	Yes	25	May through October 10

**National Park Service**  
**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**  
**9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630**  
**Application for Special Use Permit**

Please supply the information requested below. **Attach additional sheets, if necessary, to provide required information.** Allow at least four (4) business days for processing. A non-refundable processing fee may be required to accompany this application unless the requested use is an exercise of a First Amendment right. You will be notified of the disposition of the application and the necessary steps to secure your final permit. (Note: there may be additional fees charged, and you **may** be required to provide proof of liability insurance.)

Applicant Name:	Organization Name:
Social Security #:	Tax ID #
Street/Address:	Street/Address:
City/State/Zip Code:	City/State/Zip Code:
Telephone #:	Telephone #:
Cell phone #:	Cell phone #:
Fax #:	Fax#:

Description of Proposed Activity (attach diagram):

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Requested Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Event set up will begin	Event will begin	Event will end	Removal will be done:

Maximum Number of Participants \_\_\_\_\_ (Please provide best estimate)

Maximum Number of Vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ (attach parking plan)

Support Equipment (list all equipment) \_\_\_\_\_

Support Personnel (contractors, etc. including addresses and telephones) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual in charge of event on site (include address, telephone and cell phone numbers): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this an exercise of First Amendment Rights?	Y	N
Are you familiar with/ have you visited the requested area?	Y	N
Do you plan to advertise or issue a press release?	Y	N
Will you distribute printed material?	Y	N
Is there any reason to believe there will be attempts to disrupt, protest or prevent your event?(if yes explain on separate sheet)	Y	N

The applicant by his or her signature certifies that all the information given is complete and correct, and that no false or misleading information or false statements have been given.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided will be used to determine whether a permit will be issued. Completed application must be accompanied by an application fee in the form of a cashiers check or money order in the amount of **\$50.00** made payable to **National Park Service**. Application and administrative charges are non-refundable.

*This completed application should be mailed to: Chief Ranger, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630.*

*If you have questions, please contact the Chief Ranger at 231-326-5134, extension 400.*

**Note** that this is an application only, and does not serve as permission to conduct a filming project or any other use of the park. If your request is approved, a permit containing applicable conditions and regulations will be sent to the person designated on the application. The permit must be signed and returned to the park prior to the event.

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*The above application form is provided with the understanding that parks will insert appropriate park names and addresses and the amount of the application fee as desired.*

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected to allow the park manager to make a value judgment on whether or not to allow the requested use. All the applicable parts of the form must be completed. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 30 minutes per response including the time it takes to read, gather and maintain data, review instructions and complete the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspects of this form to the National Park Service, Special Park Uses Program Manager, 1849 C Street NW (2460), Washington, D.C. 20240